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Soft Top, Hard Shoulder (song)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" is a song by British singer-songwriter **Chris Rea**, released in 1993 as the third single from his twelfth studio album ***God's Great Banana Skin*** and the soundtrack of the 1992 British comedy drama film of the **same name**. "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder", which was written and produced by Rea,^[1] reached No. 53 in the UK and remained in the charts for two weeks.^[2] A music video was filmed to promote the single.^[3]

Two editions of the single was issued on CD. The first contained three previously unreleased tracks from 1980: "One Fine Day", "One Sweet and Tender Touch" and "Sierra, Sierra", while the second contained two additional tracks from the *Soft Top Hard Shoulder* film: "Melancholy" and "The Van Stomp/Glasgow Horizon".

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Background [edit source]

"Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" was specifically written for the film of the same name. During sessions for *God's Great Banana Skin*, Rea discovered the film project after seeing the idea plugged on Channel 4. He told **John Pidgeon** in a 1992 interview: "I saw these guys struggling with a lower budget and the idea of the movie. I saw what they were trying to do and was very impressed. It seemed very real life and it appealed to me. So I went down immediately, that morning, knocked on their door and said, I want to do the music for the film."^[4]

Critical reception [edit source]

Upon release, ***Music & Media*** wrote: "Soft pop, hard mould. The power of Rea's [latest] single is skindeep, maybe because of the reminiscence of outlaw **Lee Clayton's** "I Ride Alone".^[5] In a review of *God's Great Banana Skin*, Patrick Davitt of ***The Leader-Post*** described the song as "aggressive and urgent".^[6] In a 2017 article on British road movies, ***The Skinny*** noted the film's "earworm in the form of Chris Rea's title track".^[7]

Track listing [edit source]

7" single

- "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" – 4:30
- "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" (Half Time Version) – 2:25

Cassette single

- "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" – 4:30
- "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" (Half Time Version) – 2:25

CD single #1

- "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" – 4:30
- "One Fine Day" – 4:04
- "One Sweet and Tender Touch" – 4:41
- "Sierra, Sierra" – 4:13

CD single #2

- "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" – 4:30
- "Melancholy" – 1:40
- "The Van Stomp/Glasgow Horizon" – 2:50
- "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" (Half Time Version) – 2:25

Personnel [edit source]

- Chris Rea** - vocals, guitars
- Max Middleton** - keyboards
- Robert Ahwai - bass
- Martin Ditcham** - drums

Production

- Chris Rea** - producer
- Neil Amor - engineer
- Phillipe Garcia, Simon Wall - assistant engineers
- Tommy F.N. Willis - guitar technician

Charts [edit source]

Chart (1993)	Peak position
German Singles Chart ^[8]	54
UK Singles Chart ^[2]	53

References [edit source]

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- ↑ "New releases: Singles". *Music & Media*. 6 February 1993.
- ↑ Davitt, Patrick (30 November 1992). "What's On: Albums". *The Leader-Post*.
- ↑ Josh Slater-Williams (2017-08-29). "**Five great British road movies**" . *The Skinny*. Retrieved 2019-06-03.
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<div>V • T • E </div> <div>Chris Rea</div> <div>[hide]</div>	
Studio releases	<i>Whatever Happened to Benny Santini?</i> · <i>Deltics</i> · <i>Tennis</i> · <i>Chris Rea</i> · <i>Water Sign</i> · <i>Wired to the Moon</i> · <i>Shamrock Diaries</i> · <i>On the Beach</i> · <i>Dancing with Strangers</i> · <i>The Road to Hell</i> · <i>Auberge</i> · <i>God's Great Banana Skin</i> · <i>Espresso Logic</i> · <i>The Blue Cafe</i> · <i>The Road to Hell: Part 2</i> · <i>King of the Beach</i> · <i>Dancing Down the Stony Road / Stony Road</i> · <i>Hofner Blue Notes</i> · <i>The Blue Jukebox</i> · <i>Blue Guitars</i> · <i>The Return of the Fabulous Hofner Bluenotes</i> · <i>Santo Spirito Blues</i> · <i>Road Songs for Lovers</i> · <i>One Fine Day</i>
Compilation releases	<i>New Light Through Old Windows</i> · <i>The Best of Chris Rea</i> · <i>The Very Best of Chris Rea</i> · <i>Heartbeats</i> · <i>The Ultimate Collection</i> · <i>Still So Far to Go: The Best of Chris Rea</i> · <i>The Journey 1978-2009</i>
Singles	"Fool (If You Think It's Over)" · "Loving You" · "Let It Loose" · "I Can Hear Your Heartbeat" · "I Don't Know What It Is But I Love It" · "Bombollini" · "Stainsby Girls" · "Josephine" · "It's All Gone" · "On the Beach" · "Hello Friend" · "Let's Dance" · "Loving You Again" · "Driving Home for Christmas" · "Working on It" · "The Road to Hell" · "That's What They Always Say" · "Tell Me There's a Heaven" · "Texas" · "Auberge" · "Heaven" · "Looking for the Summer" · "Winter Song" · "Nothing to Fear" · "God's Great Banana Skin" · " Soft Top, Hard Shoulder " · "Julia" · "'Disco' La Passione"
Related articles	<i>Discography</i> · <i>La Passione</i>

Categories: 1992 songs | 1993 singles | East West Records singles | Songs written by Chris Rea | Chris Rea songs

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